

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

This is a surgical device and a method of using it. In particular, the device is one for reinforcing the pericardial sac surrounding the heart to assist in the treatment of congestive heart failure. The device, generically, is an enclosure having an interior and an exterior. The interior surface is made in such a way that it tends not to or does not form adhesions with or accept ingrowth with the myocardial tissue of the epicardium. The exterior surface of the device, in contrast, is adapted to adhere to or to ingrow with or otherwise attach sufficiently to the pericardium so that it reinforces that membrane or structure. The nature of the device is that it tends not to allow the pericardium to expand further with time. The device, after complete deployment, should envelope some measure of pericardial fluid in its interior separating it from the epicardial surface. This device helps to prevent further declination of the heart during congestive heart failure. The device is preferably introduced into the pericardial space and into the inner surface of the pericardium using transcutaneous or minimally invasive techniques.